

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5909

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

USIA WASHDC

USMISSION BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMCONSUL MUNICH

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRAGUE 0526 FINAL SECTION OF 2

5. ANOTHER VEHICLE WITH REGIME IS USING TO UNSURE STRICTER ADHERENCE TO PARTY'S IDEOLOGICAL PROGRAM IS RECENTLY-ANNOUNCED "COMPLEX CADRE ASSESSMENT" ("RUDE PRAVO", FEBRUARY 16) OF PERSONS IN MANAGERIAL OR LEADERSHIP POSITIONS IN PARTY/STATE ORGANS, ECONOMY, AND CULTURAL SPHERE. SEVERAL SOURCES HAVE TOLD US OF MEETINGS, EXAMINATIONS OF INDIVIDUALS' IDEOLOGICAL AND PROFESSIONAL CREDENTIALS, ETC. BEING CARRIED OUT IN INDUSTRIAL ENTERPRISES, RESEARCH INSTITUTES, EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS, ETC. WHETHER ANY APPRECIABLE NUMBER OF PERSONS WILL BE FIRED OR DEMOTED REMAINS UNCLEAR, BUT MANY IF NOT MOST EDUCATED CZECHOSLOVAKS PUBLICLY EXPRESSED PRO-DUBCEK SENTIMENTS DURING 1968-69 PERIOD, AND ARE THEREFORE SOMEWHAT VULNERABLE, PARTICULARLY IN CASES WHERE PROFESSIONAL RIVALS HOPE TO EMPLOY CURRENT "ASSESSMENT" AGAINST THEM. INCIDENTALLY, ALTHOUGH FEBRUARY 16 "RUDE PRAVO" ARTICLE CLAIMED LAST SUCH "ASSESSMENT" OCCURED TWO YEARS AGO, WE KNOW OF AT LEAST

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SOME CASES WHERE A GOOD THREE YEARS HAVE PASSED SINCE LAST SUCH

DISTURBING EVENT.

6. REGIME IS ALSO EVIDENTLY DISPLEASED WITH WHAT IT SEEMS AS HARMFUL AND PERVERSIVE INFLUENCE OF WESTERN AND WESTERN-ORIENTED POP MUSICIANS ON CZECHOSLOVAK YOUTH, AND IN ADDITION TO PRESS CAMPAIGN AGAINST THIS EVIL, HAS INSTITUTED PURGE OF SUPRAPHON RECORD COMPANY TO DEAL WITH PROBLEM. REPORTEDLY SUPRAPHON'S DIRECTOR AND SOME EMPLOYEES WILL BE REMOVED; ASIDE FROM POP MUSIC, RECORDINGS OF SERIOUS MUSIC BY OBJECTIONAL ARTISTS (E.G., 1968 EMIGRES) HAVE BEEN REMOVED FROM PRAGUE INVENTORIES AND RECALLED FROM SALES OUTLETS. NEVERTHELESS, WE DOUBT THAT THERE IS MUCH CHANCE THAT REGIME WILL SUCCEED IN MAKING CZECHOSLOVAK POP MUSIC SOUND VERY DIFFERENT FROM WEST EUROPEAN, AMERICAN, OR FOR THAT MATTER, POLISH. WESTERN POP MUSIC REMAINS INTENSELY POPULAR, AND ONLY TWO DAYS AGO POSTERS WENT UP FOR PRAGUE POP DUO WITH NAMES WHICH WOULD SEEM TO EPI TOMIZE CURRENT SITUATION: VIKTOR SODOMA AND RINGO CEC (CZEC).

7. IN LITERATURE, ALMOST ALL GOOD CZECH WRITERS REMAIN OUTSIDE OFFICIAL UNION. THEIR INABILITY TO PUBLISH HERE, COUPLED WITH TAXES ON FOREIGN ROYALTIES APPLIED ONLY AGAINST THEM AND NOT AGAINST PRO-REGIME WRITERS, IN SOME CASES HAS WORKED SEVERE FINANCIAL HARDSHIP. BUT REGIME HAS NEITHER EXPELLED NOR TRIED THEM ALTHOUGH SOME, INCLUDING PAVEL KOHOUT WHO HAS CONTINUED TO MAKE STATEMENTS TO WESTERN PRESS, HAVE BEEN INTERROGATED BY POLICE. LOCAL SOURCES CONTINUE TO SAY THAT LITERARY SITUATION IS SOMEWHAT BETTER IN SLOVAKIA, ALTHOUGH SLOVAK MINISTER OF CULTURE VALEK, HIMSELF A RECOGNIZED POET, IN AN ARTICLE IN PARTY WEEKLY "TVORBA" IN JANUARY CALLED FOR RETURN TO SOCIALIST REALISM AND FOR "COMMITTED PARTISAN CULTURE".

8. SEVERAL WEEKS AGO WESTERN PRESS PLAYED UP FACT THAT OTOMAR KREJCA, WELL-KNOWN FOUNDER OF PROGRESSIVE ZA BRANOU THEATRE, HAD BEEN PERMITTED TO DIRECT PLAY IN SUBURBAN THEATRE FOR FIRST TIME SINCE ZA BRANOU CLOSED IN 1972. THIS SMALL GESTURE MUST BE WEIGHED AGAINST WHAT IS OTHERWISE A DEAD PERIOD IN CZECHOSLOVAK THEATRE AND FILMS, RELIVED ONLY BY CONSIDERABLE NUMBER OF SHOWINGS OF WESTERN FILMS (PRAGUE A-18) AND, IN LEGITIMATE THEATRE, WESTERN AND CZECH CLASSICS. PRAGUE THEATER REPERTORIES WERE RECENTLY RE-EXAMINED BY PARTY IDEOLOGICAL OFFICIALS, BUT THEY CAN

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HAVE FOUND LITTLE LEFT THAT WAS OBJECTIONABLE.

9. ALL IN ALL, PRESENT IDEOLOGICAL CAMPAIGN HERE SOMEWHAT SMACKS OF FORMALISM, AND WE ASSUME IT STEMS MAINLY FROM REPORTED DECISION OF EE PARTY SECRETARIES IN MOSCOW, AND PARTLY FROM CONSIDERATIONS RELATED TO CSCE, RATHER THAN FROM FACTORS LYING SOLELY WITHIN CZECHOSLOVAKIA. HOW CLOSELY THIS CAMPAIGN CAN BE RELATED TO RECENT EVENTS

ELSEWHERE IN "SOCIALIST CAMP" IS DIFFICULT FOR US HERE TO SAY.

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